



CALIFORNIA GARDEN

IN THIS NUMBER

CALIFORNIA'S VENERABLE TREES

By Ruth R. Nelson

SOUTH AFRICAN PLANTS

By Miss K. O. Sessions

ARAUCARIAS

By C. I. Jerabek

JANUARY, 1932

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No. 7

CALIFORNIA'S VENERABLE TREES

By Ruth R. Nelson

As this article, written for the historical sketches appearing monthly in the California Garden, has been prepared during the December holidays, while our Golden State is ablaze with living Christmas trees of every kind and size, the subject of California's many famous old trees seems to be indicated.

On Christmas Day, Californians met on a blanket of fifty inches of packed snow for the seventh annual ceremony beneath the majestic General Grant Tree which is said to be the oldest living thing in the world. This magnificent old Sequoia, 264 feet in height, had thrust its slender, fragrant growth to more usual Christmas Tree proportions some four thousand years before the star-lit night when angels proclaimed the birth of the Christ-child and sang their song of "Peace on earth good will to men," which has echoed around the earth, and now is repeated every year beneath this proud old "National Christmas Tree."

Among the aisles of our Redwoods stand many

"... trees of towering height

And of gigantic strength

They bear within their topmost boughs a strange

And holy silence of remembrance

Won from outworn centuries of change."

Yet while California's giant Sequoias and Redwoods must always stand first upon any list of the State's best-known old trees, there are many venerable pines, oaks, cypress, and the desert palms which demand our deepest respect. We recall a mighty sugar pine standing, like a tower of emerald strength, in a small glade of the Yosemite. Centuries had also set their seal upon this pine's unsullied greenery ere it became known as one of the famed wonders of this carven valley. And never can the romance or the historic charms of the Monterey Peninsula be separated from those sturdy old trees which cling along its rugged shore. For the Monterey cypress, gnarled and twisted, must ever remain in-

triguingly reminiscent of Mission bells first hung upon some strong, far-reaching limb, while Spanish soldiers stand reverently to hear those chimes and the first Franciscan prayers said there upon the sands which they had taken for the King, and which later played such changing part in the early chapters of California's annals.

December is the usual month when our famous old Torrey Pines have adorned their fog-swept branches with spiny Christmas candles, merely their own new growth, thrust upward in a straight round shoot about an inch thick and longer than a hand, which stands like an erect green candle upon the tip of every pine bough. Discovered in 1850, the year California was admitted to the Union, the Torrey Pine has been called California's birthday tree. Limited to the eroded cliffs of the Torrey Pines' Mesa near Del Mar, and to their one small island home off the coast of California, these low shaggy pines are as restricted in their habitat as are the Monterey Cypress. They form a unique forest there close to the sea, which they love, but beneath which their predecessors doubtless sank during the vicissitudes of the past which separated this grove from its island twin some 150 miles away. Since the San Diego city fathers created a municipal park where the Torrey Pines grow, the trees have made a noticeable increase in numbers and improved appearance. Visitors are not allowed to remove a cone, nor even a twig from one of these trees, nor to pluck a flower in the park. And all this is well, for the large seed cones, retained upon the Torrey Pines for three or four years, can now aid in the pursuit of further propagation.

Together with the Sequoias, Monterey Cypress, and Torrey Pines, we must mention still another beautiful and important old tree, the Washingtonia palm, about which even botanists do not venture to guess at the origin of the species. There is a current myth that the Washingtonia are as old as the

Sequoias. But this is purely legendary. Probably the species has survived as many age-old changes as the Redwoods. Yet it is doubtful whether individual trees can outlive even one century, and many perish without reaching even this life span, because these tall old trees have ever been an outstanding target for lightning, storms and floods, while in recent years the hands of human vandals have rapidly decreased their numbers.

The Washingtonia palm was first discovered in November, 1846, by Major W. W. Emory who accompanied Col. Stephen Kearney in the conquest of Southern California. He sighted the first grove of palms in the sandy bed of the Carriso (Carrizo Creek) in western San Diego County, and the trees were hailed by a few Florida campaigners in the party as their old friends the "cabbage trees." The grove at Palm Springs was discovered seven years later during the survey for the projected Pacific railway.

The Indians know the Washingtonia as "Mau-wal," and make use of the tree in many ways. In their tepee building the dried fronds are utilized, also for sandals and other wearing apparel, as well as in their basket making. The small black seeds, not much larger than a coffee bean, are prepared in different ways for food, often being mixed with a meal of pine nuts or grass seed, and baked. The Indians believe that burning the dry fronds from the trees makes the palm more fruitful, and the fruit more palatable, and periodically remove the dead leaves in this way. Burning the leaves from mature trees does not impair their growth, although the Washingtonia makes use of its close-clinging dead leaves as a "defense mechanism," thus shading the most tender part of its tall slender trunk, and conserving all possible moisture received from the soil. However, when a palm's tap-root has reached permanent water, the tree continues to grow just as well without this protection.

The Coahuila Indians revere these trees, and in times that are passed, every male child when born was carried to a palm grove and allotted a particular tree which he worshipped during his entire lifetime. If it were possible to cultivate more of this spirit in the minds of Californians of today we could feel more assured of the perpetuation of these ancient wonder trees of the desert oases.

No list of California's venerable trees would be complete without some mention of the sturdy groves of fine old live oaks which are scattered here and there among our southern foothills. In 1919 the San Diego Floral Association began a campaign which resulted in the preservation of one of the finest of these groves, the El Monte Oaks

near Lakeside. And in the central part of the county many hugely spreading live oaks lend the stout protection of their shade to farm and pleasure dwellings. Not far from Warner's Springs one of these superb trees guards the modern adobe home of Mr. John Trainer who has interested himself for many years in the water development of the county, and has preserved the annals of the old Warner's Ranch in his book dedicated to William Henshaw's memory. Amongst its surrounding grove the Trainer oak is like an outstanding mountain of green strength.

The live oak probably entered into the life of the early peoples of California more than any other tree, because it furnished an indispensable part of their food. It has been said that the southern Indians seldom quarreled or fought except over the possession of acorns, which were the basis of their diet. Those from the oaks upon Palomar mountain were considered best, although the plentiful groves elsewhere furnished quite satisfactory food for the majority.

Acorns were collected by the women and children, and taken to the rancherias in conical baskets which were carried on the women's backs, in clever carrying nets suspended from headbands about their foreheads. The acorns were stored in granaries, and later cracked one at a time, between two stones, then left in the sun so that the hulls would break away, when the kernel was removed with a bone tool. It is said that the Indians never discarded a wormy acorn, and rather preferred this added ingredient. Pounded into meal at their village grinding stone, or in their carefully formed metates, the acorn flour was then placed in baskets and leached by first hot, then cold water, to remove its bitterness. Acorn mush, called "sha-wee," was prepared by dropping hot stones into the baskets containing the moistened meal. Acorns were used by the savages as a bait placed in pitfalls to take squirrels and rats. They also had an acorn dance for which they used a special song accompanied by the use of their rattles made of gourds fastened to a stick and filled with wild cherry pits or small stones.

The Indians of the San Buenaventura and Tehachapi passes built very superior oak canoes, which they constructed with planks hewn from liveoaks with their stone knives. These planks were tied together, and then pitched with asphaltum. The intervening waters between that part of the coast and the outlying islands, at one period of California history, resembled an immense ferry service, dotted as it was by these sturdy canoes in their daily intercourse with the islands.

just flushed. It will sometimes show a narrow red margin as the leaf ages.

B. Annabelle from Howard & Smith, made a good growth this summer and is now budding; the leaf is a light green and heavily spotted. Flowers a bright rose pink. The leaf is rather large, of "Angel Wing" type, with both leaf and stem smooth. B. Croftonii, the "other one" like the old Haageania is always full of bloom, the flowers a little smaller but brighter colored hairs and the leaves also smaller and I like it best of the two.

Fair Rosemond has its leaves tinted with autumn color and the edges quite red and flaked from the edge toward the center. A brighter leaf than the other types similar. It is still full of its dark red drooping clusters. The leaf of Fair Rosemond is free of the silvery spots, green on top and deep red underneath.

Shasta is still blooming and so is Pres. Carnot (the cane one). It is rather confusing to have a Rex and a fibrous begonia carrying the same name, but what can you do about it? Vedderina seems to enjoy the cool weather, for the large bunches of white flowers are out from every branch and more flowers fully expanded than in warm weather.

Odorata rosea has never been out of flower since it was planted 6 years ago. Is over six feet tall and has many branches from the root. The cold nights though have caused most of the leaves to turn yellow, a fact never known of it before. There are still tall spikes of bloom on the Ricinafolia. It has a short resting period and then it begins to throw up more bloom stalks that last for several months. The flowers are also fragrant, a delicate lily-like odor.

Clivias are blooming and the Russelia juncea in the hanging basket has many tubular red flowers along the drooping stem.

For brightness of foliage we depend to a great extent on the coleus. When in San Francisco two years ago I visited the Honore de Patri in Golden Gate Park and in the circular rotunda were many pots of coleus and one in particular I noted as very fine. I obtained some plants of it at a nursery and found it was called Fay Lamphier. The foliage is a deep reddish brown with a scalloped green edge. Leaves are quite large and it is a thrifty grower. Seeds from it came true, though some plants showed a broader margin of green. The cold so far, has not hurt what plants that were growing under the lath, but then, out here in Pacific Beach, there has been no frost, though it has been plenty cold. When the coleus bloomed in the glass house the little humming birds used to visit them every day and when the seed ripened

I found them coming up in the adjoining boxes and two I transplanted under the lath and they have made very large sturdy plants.

I found a tiny bud cluster on the seedling Englerii, though the plant is not more than a foot in height. So it must be a winter bloomer. I should perhaps, pinch it off and keep the strength for the plant but am so anxious to see the bloom that I stay my fingers.

A very small plant of Incarnata is blooming and when one looks at this plant it is hard to believe it is one of the parents of Arthur Malliet. Or that the Mad. Fanny Giron too, belongs to the same strain. Mad. Fanny Giron is a winter bloomer and the leaves show some resemblance to Incarnata, though the flower is a deep red. It has been classed as an annual and new plants should be started when it is through blooming.

Most begonia growers believe a begonia cannot be grown to any advantage without a lot of leaf mould, but when I first came out here I had a lot of begonias in pots that had either become potbound or needed more soil and as I could not at that time wait to get a load of leaf mould but felt as though the plants should be planted in new soil I just dug up the sandy soil in the lath house and put the begonias right in the plain dirt. The ground had been heavily fertilized the year before with fish meal and a crop of beans grown on it. Well, those begonias just went to work and by summer they had made a wonderful growth and the Odorata alba and O. rosea are still in the same place and have never had one mite of leaf mould or other fertilizer and still they are strong healthy plants and bloom profusely every year. Other varieties too, are still growing as they were planted six years ago and are still giving good returns. But I like leaf mould for the begonias when I can get good kinds preferably from the oak trees in the mountains.

"When the masons and carpenters and decorators have finished the architect's house, and keys are turned over to the new owner—then, and from that moment, the structure begins to depreciate! When the landscape architect has finished his work about this new home, he has fashioned something which, if his work is well done, the sun, and rains, and the frosts, and the winds will not depreciate; he has produced a living thing, which in spite of discouragements and neglect and abuses, will keep on and on improving as it goes."

Luther Burbank.

The California Garden

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 Silas B. Osborn
 Associate Editor
 Walter S. Merrill

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
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McKELVEY'S

Elite Printing Co.  851 2nd. St., San Diego

K. O. SESSIONS' NURSERY SALESYARD IN MISSION HILLS

Miss K. O. Sessions' many customers and friends in Mission Hills will be pleased to learn that she has assumed the business of Mr. Dewey Kelly known as "The Dewey Kelly Nursery," at 401 West Washington Street, San Diego. Miss Sessions states that the purpose of the re-establishment of her business in Mission Hills was for the convenience of her many old patrons who find it difficult to visit her main nursery at Pacific Beach. Mr. Dewey Kelly will remain in charge with Miss Sessions assisting him with her personal supervision. Miss K. O. Sessions' Nursery has been established in San Diego for over forty years, moving from downtown San Diego to Mission Hills, when the greater portion of this district was covered with sagebrush. Much of the horticultural improvement in this beautiful district may be attributed to her efforts, knowledge, and sympathetic encouragement so freely bestowed on enthusiastic but uninformed home gardeners.

S. B. Osborn.

HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION

Anticipating the beautification of our city and county highways, particularly the roads near the Coast, a general planting this spring in clumps, close to the shore lines, of *Echium fastuosum*, known as the Pride of Madeira, would in one or two years make a real showing. It is a native of the Azore Islands and is conspicuous in all illustrations of these islands for its flowers are borne on long spikes, 12 to 18 inches long, and are of good shades of blue. The plant makes a rapid growth into a low spreading shrub from 3 to 5 feet in width and height and stands much drought and will flourish close to the ocean.

Its blossoming season is from late March to June and as it grows readily from seed it can be expected to spread and naturalize itself.

Along the park areas at Ocean Beach at Sunset Cliffs, plant it together with *Rhus integrifolia* (our native lemonade berry) would make a very fine showing and require the very least of care. Also in the park areas at La Jolla, Del Mar and Oceanside next to the sea.

A general planting of the *Mesembryanthemums*, commonly known as ice-plants, set out in favorable locations would help the barrenness of much of the highways. There are only about six varieties that are desirable for this use. These can be grown from cuttings if properly planted during the winter season and before March.

K. O. Sessions.

Evidence of the widespread appreciation of the "California Garden" is at hand in the form of the following letter received recently from Soviet Russia:

Moscow, Dec. 11, 1931.

To the Publisher of "California Garden,"
 Point Loma, California, U. S. A.

Dear Sir:

I have heard quite by chance that the best monthly magazine devoted to Horticulture is "California Garden" printed in English in Point Loma, California.

I take the liberty to ask you to send me by post a sample copy of your publication and at the same time I beg you to tell me the subscription rates, for which I shall be very grateful.

Awaiting the favour of an early reply, I remain, dear sir,

Yours faithfully,
 S. Davidoff.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

JANUARY WEATHER IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Dean Blake, Weather Bureau

Usually the coldest month in San Diego County is January. Frequent frosts occur in the districts back from the coast, and firing is necessary to protect citrus trees and fruits in the marginal locations. On the hillsides and mesas, temperatures rarely fall to the danger point, and protection from frosts generally is not necessary. In the city, the thermometer has dropped below freezing, 32° F., only on two successive days in January, 1913, when 28° and 25° were recorded during a general cold wave in the state. Temperatures over 70° are frequent, and when the land breeze prevails, day after day of invigorating dry weather is experienced.

January is one of the three rainiest months its average being 1.84 inches. Since the record began in 1850, there have been two with no precipitation, and several times more than 5 inches has been the total for the month. The average number of days on which rain falls is six. The snowfall is frequently heavy in the mountains, and occasionally falls in the foothills, but only once has it been observed near the coast.

There is plenty of sunshine as a rule, and 16 clear days may be expected. Strong winds sometimes accompany the rains and may continue for several days, but on the whole the weather is usually characterized by cool, bracing, quiet air rather than storms, and out-of-door pleasures and work are never carried on under arduous circumstances.

NOTICE OF JANUARY MEETING

Mr. Hugh Evans of Santa Monica will be the speaker of the evening at the January meeting which will be held in the Floral Society Building in Balboa Park on Tuesday evening, January 19th.

Mr. Evans will talk on "rare plants" and will bring several specimen plants to illustrate his lecture.

REPORT OF DECEMBER MEETING

The December meeting was distinctly a Christmas meeting. The room was beautifully decorated for the occasion and candle lights burned in every window. Through the efforts of Mrs. G. Evans, a group of carolers came with their Christmas songs.

Mr. Milton P. Sessions gave an illustrative lecture on rose pruning, and Christmas wreaths.

The house committee served appropriate refreshments.

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F. H. Lane, Chula Vista.
Mrs. L. P. Kjergaard, Long Beach.

WATSONIAS

The Watsonias of South Africa are among our very desirable Winter and early Spring bloomers and already many desirable hybrids have been made here. However, many more sorts are known and in cultivation at Cape Town. One in particular is an everbloomer. We certainly could grow these other varieties from seed with success in this vicinity.

The Watsonia bulbs become dormant in May and June and should be dug for a rest period and replanted during August so they will bloom early. The bulbs can be left in the ground for two years—if kept very dry during June and July and watered in August.

Watsonia adneri with lavender tinted flowers was the first variety known here and W. O'Briensii is the very large and pure white variety. A plain dark salmon sort, cultivated in California for many years gave the colored flower that has been used in the hybridization work and with the sports as well, there are now many beautiful shades.

Mrs. J. H. Bullard of Los Angeles has accomplished most with the hybrids and Mr. Theodore Payne has carried on her development of the separate varieties with good results. Now let us secure seeds from South Africa and get busy for our Spring Flower Shows.

K. O. Sessions.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

THE OLD AND THE NEW

By Bertha M. Thomas

This is the time of year to take inventory of stock. It pays to do it, no matter what your business; and your business includes not only that which provides the currency, but also every phase of our life. And our hobbies or pleasures, are one of the most important of all, since, if they are not the source of our income, they are always the source of our happiness.

The flower lovers, like all others, are now counting last year's failures and successes and we find them all assets (that is if your mental bookkeeping system is a good one), and so many new things appeared. Among Aquatics some of these novelties were not pleasing enough to carry over to this year's ledger, but many were highly satisfactory and among the most interesting was the creation of a yellow tropical lily by G. H. Pring, the noted Superintendent of Missouri Botanical Gardens at St. Louis. Never before had there been a yellow in this variety of lilies. We have not seen it but will wait patiently until it is catalogued for sale. The tropical lilies have so many pleasing features which always make friends for them, their vigorous growth, the beautifully crimped and spotted leaves, the highly colored blooms, their rich fragrance and the specific difference of the fragrance of each variety, their late blooming season, and the easy care of their roots which are a bulb. The night bloomers are also members of this family, and, to make a summary, the tropical lilies are the aristocrats of the water garden.

Among the discoveries of this last year is one reported to the National Academy of Science that plants can be made insane and unconscious by chemicals through the same processes as in humans. Professor Bancroft, of Cornell University, says he finds that thickening or thinning of the proteins in the cells of the plants causes these results. Treated with anesthetics, the plants pass through a stage similar to sleep in the humans receiving ether during an operation. The sensitive plant *Mimora pudica* was used in the tests. When treated with substances which diluted its proteins, the leaves no longer drooped or folded up even under powerful blows. For some time science at last decided to agree that plants had feelings, a fact that any real gardener had always known from his own experience. Now that we have scientists coming over on our side along newer and deeper lines, the wonders the florists, gardeners and horticulturists have in store for them is beyond comprehension.

But the story of the past year had one chapter of hard luck—the unusual heat. It

took toll from many subjects and our fuchsias here in Southern California came in for their share, since heat is always their pet aversion. We have said nothing about them for the past few months because we were in mourning for those we lost. But we were grateful to notice that it was only weak plants or those in pots and not sufficiently protected. But since one never recovers from an infection of the fuchsia bug, it isn't a serious setback—just a reminder to obtain some new specimens.

Just now it is most important to prune all the old plants. Do it vigorously and with as hard a heart as the surgeon performs his operations. The more severely you prune now, the better plant you will have when spring growth begins, and more and larger flowers.

But the fuchsias proved their worth during our unusual cold weather. They also showed their "human" characteristics by triumphantly shouting, "Never touched me" in showing their blossoms. Phenomenal, Beauty of Exeter, Le Robusta, Swanley Yellow, Sensation, Mrs. Eva Boey, Storm King, Punilla, Darl Blane (or Black Prime), Arabella, Coriifolia, Annie Earle, and the Triphylla, Hybrids, all these have bloomed every day. Some other varieties were only part time workers. Even that is not so bad when we remember that the Bay City region cannot have any blooms in winter.

We will soon give you some of the new things the Fuchsia Society has to report for the past year, and the newer ones they expect to accomplish in the coming one.

HARPULLIA PENDULA

Harpullia pendula, the Moretown willow wood tree, of New South Wales and Queensland, is a rare plant in Southern California. One matured tree has been located at Glendale, Los Angeles County, and from its seed some plants have been established, now two to three feet high. Mrs. Helen King has written about it lately in the Los Angeles Times Garden Magazine Department. She admires it for its fine evergreen and handsome foliage and the brilliant red seed pods filled with black seeds hanging by light threads to be scattered by the wind.

A plant of this interesting tree has been received—a very worthwhile Christmas remembrance. Why not inaugurate Christmas card trees in 1932 by every local member of the San Diego Floral Association. The nurserymen of the city could supply them for five cents to fifty cents each, or one could raise their own real trees, not shrubs. Consider it seriously.

K. O. Sessions.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUB FEDERATION

The California Garden Club Federation was organized December 5, 1931, at Santa Maria Inn, Santa Maria, Calif.

There was a most enthusiastic gathering of more than forty people, both men and women, from all over the State. There are twenty-three charter member clubs, seventeen of which sent delegates to the organization meeting.

After the ratification and adoption of the Constitution and By-Laws, the officers were elected and are as follows:

Mrs. Leonard B. Slosson, President, Los Angeles.

Mrs. Everett J. Brown, First Vice President, Piedmont.

Mr. Elbert Benjamine, Second Vice President, Los Angeles.

Mr. A. W. Spanton, Recording Secretary, Sacramento.

Mrs. Maria Wilkes, Corresponding Secretary, Los Angeles.

Mr. Henry Nixon, Treasurer, Ojai.

The state was divided into eight regional districts in groups of counties and a Regional Director elected for each district. The Regional Directors are as follows:

Mrs. J. H. Keemer, Sacramento.

Mr. Ashley C. Browne, Sacramento.

Mr. Dexter M. Rogers, Monterey.

Mrs. Laurance I. Scott, Burlingame.

Miss Grace Atmore, Fillmore.

Mrs. Julian E. Curtis, Van Nuys.

Mrs. H. C. Quest, Van Nuys.

The standing committees in California deal with Conservation; Billboards and Roadsides; Lectures and Lantern Slides; Junior Garden Clubs; Programs and Speakers Bureau; Flower Shows and Judging; Organization and Membership; Pilgrimages; Publicity and Publications; and Legislation.

The objects of the Federation are to promote interest in amateur gardening and in plant and bird life; to co-ordinate all these interests of the State by acting as a clearing house for aid and information on all subjects pertinent thereto; and to promote and assist in movements for conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of California.

A Flower Show Policy is to be advanced; also a Course for Judges, which is invaluable in maintaining the high standards of the Federation and does away with temperamental judging.

The rapid growth of Garden Clubs throughout the country has brought a widespread appreciation of their civic worth and usefulness and the value of working together for definite purposes and the exchange of ideas resultant from the broadening, helpful contact between member clubs is now apparent.

California needs the co-operative efforts of all her garden and nature lovers to spread the "Gospel of the Garden" throughout our State and adopt the slogan, "Wake up to the full advantages that your soil and climate offer and fill your gardens with the world's best," recommended by Ernest H. Wilson, asserting her rightful place as a leading garden state of America.

The first annual meeting will be held in April at the time of the Oakland Business Men's Garden Club Third Annual Spring Garden Show held in Oakland, California. Annual meetings will be held alternately in the northern and southern part of the State. Clubs all over the State are being invited to join.

List of Charter Member Clubs in Federation
Raymond Avenue School Home Garden Club, Los Angeles.

Southern California Garden Club, Van Nuys.

Westside Garden Club, Santa Barbara.

Monterey Peninsula Garden Club.

Fallbrook Garden Club, San Diego County.

Vista Garden Club, San Diego County.

Ventura County Garden Club.

San Pedro Garden Club.

Hillsborough Garden Club.

Carpinteria Valley Garden Club.

Piedmont Garden Club.

South Pasadena Garden Club.

Sacramento County Garden Club.

Ojai Valley Garden Club.

Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club.

Pomona City Garden Club.

Redlands Horticultural Society.

Chico Horticultural Society.

San Fernando Horticultural Society, Van Nuys.

Nature Club of Southern California, Los Angeles.

Desert Forum of Pasadena.

The Pasadena Club.

The "Diggers" of Pasadena.

**BLOOMING PALM OF RARE SPECIES
STIRS INTEREST**

**Archontophoenix on Marlborough Drive
Impresses Visitors With Beauty**

Scores of visitors have called at the home of Mrs. Annette Morrison, 4742 Marlborough Drive, to see a beautiful blooming palm tree. R. R. McLean, county agricultural commissioner, and John Morley, city park superintendent, inspected the tree and pronounced it the Archontophoenix species, commonly known as the king palm. There are about 10 species known, all of them natives of Australian and Malaysian origin, according to McLean.

There are but two species of Archontophoenix ordinarily grown in California, and

while perhaps not rare yet there are relatively few specimens seen outside of botanical gardens or park plantings. These two species are *A. Alexandrae*, or Alexandra's palm, and *A. Cunninghamii*, or Illawarra palm. The latter palm also goes under the generally used name of *Seaforthia Elegans*. These two palms are similar in general appearance, so that only an expert will readily note the difference between them.

There are several specimens of each growing in San Diego. Those on the front lawn of the Morrison place on Marlborough Drive in Kensington Park are probably *A. Alexandrae*, according to Morley, a recognized authority. On the county courthouse grounds east of the buildings there is a beautiful specimen of *Seaforthia Elegans*, or, according to a later classification, *A. Cunninghamii*.

"Both of these palms are so graceful and beautiful and have so much value as decorative specimens, that they should be much more generally planted than they are at present," said McLean. "They are probably as hardy as our common *cocos plumosa*. The wonderful royal palm of southern Florida, *Oreodoxa Regia*, has not been successful in California, according to Mr. Morley, as it is quite tropical in its requirements."—San Diego Union.

COMMON NAMES OF PLANTS

There came to my table under the lamp the other evening a recently published book of 150 pages entitled, "The Common Names of Plants and Their Meanings," by Willard N. Clute, director of the Botanical Garden of Butler University, Indianapolis, editor of "The American Botanist," and author of numerous books on American plant life. I thought I would skim through a chapter or two before turning to other business for the evening; but one chapter led so seductively to another, and this to another—the chapters are agreeably short—that I found myself at "finis" and bedtime come before I was ready to lay the book down.

"Whence Came Our Plant Names," "Our First Plant Names," "Technical Names," "Indian Names," "Pioneer Names," "Manufactured Names," "Plants Named for Demons, Animals, Serpents, Saints and Heroes," "Hyphenated Names," "Imported Names"—all these subjects and more are treated truthfully, lucidly and racily. It will be a wise reader indeed who does not find surprises in every chapter. The Californian may be disappointed to find so few Pacific Slope names discussed, for most of the plants referred to are Eastern and their vernacular names more or less localized; nevertheless, no plant lover,

east or west, can fail to be entertained and instructed by a perusal of this handy, well printed volume. (Published by Willard N. Clute & Co., Indianapolis. Price \$3.00.)

C. F. Saunders.

BLECHNUM CORCOVADENSE

The *Blechnums* belong to the *Polypodiaceae* species of ferns, but differ from the common *Polypodiums* in their leaf growth. *B. Corcovadense* is a native of Brazil with a short leaf growth, from 8 to 10 inches long.

The young leaves are a dull crimson, turning green as they age. Some Horticulturists consider it a variety of *B. Brasiliense*, though the growth is somewhat different and the pinnae is not cut to the rachis as in *B. occidentale*, and the mature fronds much resemble the wild ferns growing in very wet places. *B. Corcovadense*, like the wild ferns like plenty of water during the summer months, will not stand as much dry soil as some of the other varieties.

I have these wild ferns growing from the sides of hanging baskets that are lined with sphagnum moss, which, upon being wet will start into growth, but they die down upon the approach of cold weather. One who lives where the sphagnum moss is gathered would probably be able to name this species. I don't believe they belong to the *Blechnums*, as these are tender and the wild ones are hardy.

The *Blechnums* resent water on their leaves though it likes plenty at its roots. Therefore, when I water *B. Corcovadense* I let the water from the hose run slowly on the bed and it soaks into the soil at some depth which keeps them thrifty and healthy. It spreads fast from creeping roots which can later be divided into numerous individual plants.

Blechnums make excellent specimen ferns for growing in pots if plenty of moisture is maintained at the roots and this can be helped by setting the pot in a jardiner and placing sphagnum moss around the space between pot and jardiner and keeping some water in the bottom. If allowed to become dry the leaves will turn brown. The spores of most *Blechnums* germinate freely and should be sown on a compost of leaf mould and rich loam and sand in the bottom to maintain a constant moisture. Peat can be used in place of leaf mould and the seed pan kept in a shady place and covered with glass. Temperature not lower than 60° should be maintained for best results. The spores are slow in germinating and will often take from six months to a year before the little plants begin to show up.

Among the varieties in cultivation are: *B. Brasiliense* that grows from a stout arborescent trunk one foot or more long; one foot or more wide with the pinnae set at acute angles with the rachis. It is a native of Brazil.

B. Occidentale has an erect rigid stem covered with brownish scales 9 to 18 inches long, 4 to 6 inches wide, with the pinnae truncate or cordate at the base; a beautiful small fern and is found in Mexico, Brazil and the West Indies. Some of the species send out creeping rhizomes which develop plants at the ends. Very attractive species are found among the hardy British Blechnums.

E. K. Gray.

GREVILLIAS

The genus *Grevillia* is another fine Australian numbering 57 species of which only five are known to the writer—*G. Thelemannia*, *Banksii*, *Ornithopoda*, *Paniculata*, *robusta*.

The first two are fine, red flowering and perpetual bloomers, daily, and are therefore very desirable shrubs. *Thelemaniana* need but very little water and stands a judicious heading in of its branches, but not a severe pruning. One plant easily spreads to four to six feet spreading well at the base and grows at least five to six feet high. Very good near base of house where it can be kept on the drier side, but it should be placed at least three feet out. The *Banksii* bears a larger flower and has very individual foliage. *Ornithopoda* has very small, white flowers on evergreen; also ever bloomer, but more interesting than desirable. Has leaf like a bird's foot. *Paniculata* is very distinct, a low, creeping shrub that will cover three feet or more, and a late winter bloomer. It is very new to San Diego, but most promising as a ground cover. *G. Robusta* is our well-known, large tree that has fern-like foliage, and its orange-colored flowers borne in large flat sprays the size of a hand. Its one fault is often so noted because its large leaves when shed, show so conspicuously on the sidewalk or lawn or yard. The beautiful pepper is likewise criticized for its fallen leaves and berries. Since San Diego has no snow to sweep away, why not be happy in sweeping up a few leaves and berries?

K. O. Sessions.

NOTICE OF FEBRUARY MEETING

On Tuesday, February 16th, at 7:30 p. m., the regular meeting of the Floral Association will be held at the Floral Building, Balboa Park. Mr. E. O. Orpet of Santa Barbara, renowned botanist and grower of fine plants will speak on drought resistant plants, a subject very pertinent to Southern California conditions.

AUSTRALIAN NATIVE FLOWERS

PITTOSPORUM OF THE VALLEYS

By "Correa"

" on all sides

Delicious odor breathed. A pleasant air
That intermitted never, never veered,
Smote on my temples gently as a wind
Of softest influence."

Sweet *Pittosporum* (*P. undulatum*) grows in the valleys. Some trees may be found on the hills or the plains, many, clipped and crowded, bring sweetness of blossom to suburban hedges, but the true home of the tree is in deep gullies, and there it reaches perfection. There the soil is rich with the fallen leaves of many years, and from its birth, when twin leaves rise, pushing the seed sheath with them, and throwing it from them, it puts forth strong shining foliage, lanceolate and sturdy, and polished so that it reflects every sunbeam or shaft of valley light that touches it. Each leaf is about four inches long and an inch wide, dark green, with undulating margins.

Year after year the tree grows in beauty and strength, not only pushing up toward the clearer light, but spreading also. Its lower boughs touch the ground; the highest are only less tall than the Gums, and smooth brown branches show rarely among its green. From every stem the leaves spread like the petals of a flower; each bunch of foliage is a star, and when the flower season comes it is in the heart of these interlacing stars that the buds appear. They are clustered, many together, slender and creamy green, folded in narrow sepals which, spreading, release the petals when they are full grown. The buds swell daily till the warm airs of September bring them to flowering. Then the sealed riches are opened, clear and pure, like Orange blossom, but smaller, five-petaled, with five white stamens grouped closely round the pistil in the heart of each—this is the *Pittosporum* flower.

Many open together, pouring forth fragrance, a living memorial of the gift of all-suspending love, "an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard, very precious." The sweetness of the stream-fed soil, the strength of the earth and the beauty of surrounding fern and flower, gladness of spring and the eager sunshine, from each of these some goodness is distilled, and the precious scent poured out at the feet of spring. But the spring has many lovers and rejoices in a thousand gifts. She takes the fragrance poured out for her, and flings it far for the gladdening of the world. Drifting from its home, it is lost in the floods of Wattle scent, and the cool sweet breath of ferns. None seek the deep valleys and lift their faces to the creamy bloom, there finding the rarest fra-

grance of all the year. Only the insects, ants and bees and craneflies come and go upon the waxlike flowers, spreading the pollen over the stigmas, fulfilling the first purpose of the flower. Then the spring airs grow warmer, the flowers dry and turn brown and fall, while the promise of fruit can hardly be recognized in the small and hard green knobs which remain.

But each undeveloped fruit has all the summer for growing. In the cool depths of the valley, nourished by all its riches which leaf and root gather, with infinite patience, and purify, the tree pours strength into the rounding fruits. By the end of the summer they are so heavy on their stiff, short stalks that they bend down the branches and hang, almost hidden, as green as the green of the leaves.

Within those swelling fruits the seed is packed closely, line beside line, each seed flat-sided so that it lies firmly against its neighbor and no fruit space is wasted.

In autumn the fruits color, even in the gullies they brighten, and shine, orange globes amongst the green. Then along two of the lines that lightly quarter the outside of the rind, the fruit divides so that it has again somewhat the form of a flower. The seeds are packed solidly along the top of each blunt petal-like segment. They are hard and strong, meet for the keeping of the new life dwelling in them. They are ruddy with scented red gum which is spread over them for the birds—and by the birds the children of the tree are carried far. They are the messengers who receive an hundredfold—in shelter, in coolness, in food and rest—for all they give. Yet to the tree the greatness of their gift is immeasurable. They give it new life in succeeding generations. And not only so, they bring it also the beauty of the outer world. *Pittosporum* is fair in its home, and the quiet of valleys is its heritage, but it may not see the wide view of the mountains, or the gold of sunlight on the plains, the flowers of the valley are few and pale, even the sky is fretted by the boughs of taller trees.

It knows the faces of its companions—fern and rock, Christmas Bush and Musk—it knows every song of the valley-born stream, every curve of its sheltering hills, but the life and sunshine of the world beyond the mountains is denied it. This then is the gift of the birds. They come with song and chattering, and disturb the still branches as they feast. They sing of sunlight on the hills, and the *Pittosporum* sees it all in one branch of Wattle bloom; they tell of Bluebells innumerable, their stars uplifted in the wind, and the *Pittosporum*, wise in the understanding of its love, can picture them in one fragment of sky; they tell of autumn and the crops gathered in, of amber

twilight and ripe grass—the tree perceives them in its own fruits' mellowness.

Thus the birds bring a new world to the valley, and take thence seeds of new fragrance. Do they notice as they play in the branches a scent that is warm and rich and sweet, as pure as the fern-scent and stronger than the Musk? It is the sweetness of the ripe fruits, the scent of the flowers born again, richer and quieter, in the fulfilment of their lives.

The birds do not come often, so the seeds may be long with the tree, and before they go new buds give promise of a new spring's joy, more perfect to the tree than ever before, as each year adds to its power of blossom-bearing, and so adds to the richness of the spring. Therein is the gladness of the tree, for love dwells in it, and giving is the joy and perfecting of love.—Australian Flower Lover.

IRIS SPECIES OF THE FUTURE

By Howard Weed

Two species of iris which are particularly adapted to the Pacific Coast and some of the Southern states are the *Oncocyclus* and *Regelia*. Little or no particular care is needed in growing these iris in the sections mentioned, although they must be carefully watched and precautions taken in the more northern and eastern states.

The flowers are distinctive and differ greatly from the bearded varieties commonly known to the amateur gardener. But even the most critical flower lover will readily admit that the *Oncocyclus* and *Regelia* flowers far surpass in beauty even the latest introductions of the tall bearded varieties.

The typical *Oncocyclus* flower is of imposing structure, being of gigantic size, with almost round standards as wide as three inches and the falls longer. The standards and falls are covered with intricate veining, with very heavy beards sometimes intensely black in color, running along the falls. These iris differ from the ordinary kinds in their short rhizomes, relatively narrow gray-green leaves, one-headed and one-flower stalk. The falls are thickly covered with hairs over the central portion and haft. The flower stalks are short and stalky, rarely growing more than two feet in height, but the plants bloom abundantly.

The typical *Regelia* is almost identical with the *Oncocyclus* in rhizome, leaf, and seed, but the flowers are more slender and delicate, the stalk carrying two and often three blooms. The bearding of the falls is limited to a narrow line from the middle to the base. The flower stalks often grow as high as three feet and most of the varieties bloom abundantly.

The *Regelias* are natives of Turkestan and Armenia, the *Oncocyclus* come mostly from Asia Minor, Palestine, Syria, the Caucasus and Persia. Their origin in this dry climate makes them particularly at home in parts of California and its neighboring states. They flourish in Oregon, one variety winning the grand sweepstakes prize in the spring garden show of 1930 at Portland.

Many of these varieties as well as the *Pogocyclus* hybrids produced from crosses with the *pogoniris*, are perfectly hardy and have survived in my gardens at Beaverton, Oregon, when the temperature sank to nearly zero. Two months later, they were in full bloom.

The important requirement in the growing of this type is to keep all moisture from them during the summer months. This time is their resting period and they should remain dormant until September or October, when the fall rains will quicken them to life. In sections where rain falls during the summer, flower lovers have withheld all moisture by means of a cold frame. A few growers have hit upon the excellent scheme of potting the rhizomes, burying the pots in the fall, where they are left until after the flowering season; then lifting the pots and putting them away to dry in some sheltered spot. A few growers do not pot plant in pots, but lift the iris during the latter part of June and store them in a warm dry place out of the sunlight, until fall planting time. However, this procedure is entirely unnecessary in any part of the country which receives little rainfall during June, July and August.

One of the outstanding features of these species is their earliness of bloom. Many of the varieties bloom from three weeks to a month before the bearded species and in this way are a material aid in lengthening the flowering season of the small garden. Many of the *Pogocyclus* hybrids such as *Hamadan* and *Flecta* are not harmed by midsummer rains. *Hamadan* often blooms a second time in the fall.

No iris garden is complete without a few specimens of these species for they differ so greatly from the common so-called "flags" that an observer can hardly believe they belong to the same family. The varieties vary greatly among themselves, and the person who wishes to add to his garden of rare gems need not concern himself with fear of duplication or marked similarity. The average price charged per plant by commercial growers is slightly higher than the purchase price of the bearded sorts—but, then, diamonds bring a higher price than glass, due chiefly to their rareness and increased beauty.

Due to the helpful and pioneering work of the United States Department of Agriculture, these species of hitherto little known iris have come rapidly to the front in regard to publicity and general knowledge among true flower enthusiasts. For a number of years, the department has conducted test gardens at Chico, California, and in Virginia, to ascertain the peculiarities and requirements of these flowers which the officials recognized to be of outstanding beauty. With the exception of aphids and thrips, the authorities found them to be immune from disease and attack from insects.

It is almost an impossibility to describe the many varieties which are now being grown successfully in the United States but a short description of those which are better known and of recognized merit requiring the least care will be of value to those who might like to set out a trial planting.

Susiana is, perhaps, the best known and most outstanding of the *Oncocyclus*, although a few of the *Pogocyclus* varieties resemble it and are easier to cultivate. This variety gives the impression of being black but upon closer examination, one will find that the standards and falls are covered with an intricate veining and speckling of deep purple-black over a gray-white ground. The standards are slightly lighter than the falls. Other varieties in this group are *Mariae*, *Lorteti*, *Atropurpurea*, *Lupinda*, *Sarii*, *Safrana Gwineri*, *Acutibola*, and *Mismarkiana*, but most of these are little known and are still in the experimental stage of their culture. *Gatesi* and *Iberica* have been used as parents for a number of the *Pogocyclus* varieties but these are not considered hardy. *Paradoxa* is in this classification.

Hoogiana is the outstanding variety in the *Regelia* group. It came originally from Turkestan and is notable for a wonderful smoothness of texture. It is the bluest of blue iris. Mr. Dykes, a leading iris authority, once stated, "*Hoogiana* is perhaps the most aristocratic of all irises. There is a grace and distinction about the large flowers of uniform color, set off by the bright golden beard, which is not found even in the best *pallidas*." It is unsurpassed as a specimen plant and for indoor decoration.

Korolkowi is another interesting variety that is in every respect the opposite of *Hoogiana*, being of a curiously elongated form with unusually quaint pointed veins thinly spread over the entire flower, the general appearance being a most unusual and artistic black and white striped effect. There is a dark mahogany blotch at the throat and the beard is a deep blackish metallic bronze.

Stolinifera, sometimes called Leichtlini, is an exceedingly handsome iris of elongated form with an undescribable blending of fawn and brown and clear electric blue. It has wavy falls and standards.

Perhaps the best known of the Pogocyclus varieties, which have resulted from the crossing of Oncocyclus and tall bearded species, is William Mohr. This variety, unlike its Oncocyclus parent Gatesi, is quite hardy. It is a very large flower with standards three and one-fourth by two and three-fourths inches. The ground color is pale lilac but the whole flower is beautifully veined manganese violet. Incidentally, this variety was originated by and named after one of the greatest of California hybridizers.

Zwanenburg is an offspring of Susiana and one of which its parent should be proud. There is no iris more hardy nor so odd in appearance. It is an unusual flower of great size and blooms the earliest of all. In color, the standards are cream, blotched greenish buff and the falls are chamois to olive brown. It is a prodigious bloomer. Perhaps its best feature is its inexpensiveness for it retails for from fifteen to twenty-five cents. This variety is universally classed as one of the world's best fifty varieties of iris.

Hamadan has upright open ruffled standards of uniform rich violet and flaring falls of about the same color, with a white throat overlaid with purple veins. It blooms a long time and has a pronounced plush-like deep black beard covering nearly the entire width of the falls.

Charon is one of the most beautiful and distinctive of the species with standards an attractive shade of reddish-brown, and bronze falls.

Ib-pall is a free flowering variety, with ruffled reddish lilac standards and dark violet falls over a white ground. It is not as large as the others. It has a bronzy yellow beard, with a dark spot on the falls at the tip of the beard.

Freya is almost black and is similar but not as large as Susiana, although equal if not surpassing it in beauty. Stock of this variety is extremely scarce.

Beatrix has falls heavily veined and dotted lavender on a gray ground. It is one of the best.

Hebe is somewhat similar to Beatrix but has darker falls. This variety multiplies rapidly. Dido is a short-stalked one.

Flecta is a fine flower with lavender standards, falls veined and dotted reddish-brown on a creamy ground. It is outstanding in any collection with the added advantage of being easily grown in any climate.

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Hera is a most distinct variety with bright ruby-red standards, beautifully veined. The falls are bronze, suffused with blue.

Other varieties of merit are Irene, an odd grayish-white, veined black; Dorak, ruffled standards of clear light violet; Turkoman, reddish-brown and ruby-purple; Carmelo, an unusual shade of blue receiving the award of merit from the Royal Horticultural Society of London; Lady Lilford, an outstanding blackish-purple; Psyche, white, veined violet; and Bellorio, a graceful flower of lavender mouse-gray.

If the following requirements are met with, the grower of these iris will encounter little difficulty: plant in a well-drained soil—if necessary raise the particular spot in which the rhizome is planted; place in a sunny location; shallow planting of not more than two inches; removal of all dead and useless portions before planting; plant in loose soil; an application of lime to the soil is sometimes beneficial; protection from rain during the summer months including September, if possible.

The roots of these iris differ from the rhizomes of the bearded class and also from the bulbs of the English, Dutch and Spanish. The

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Regelia group have comparatively long corms in contrast to the *Oncocyclus* short ones. On the upper side may be found one to several buds which give rise to the new corms of the next season, while the parent corm gradually dies and disappears after it has flowered. The main growing point is at the surface of the ground, but the lateral buds, which are slightly deeper, take their places at the surface the following year when they reach their full stature. The feeding roots grow from the outer and under side of the corm, disappearing during the hot, dry summer so that the plant looks almost dead.

The main reason why dryness is essential in the summer is because of the opportunity for the callousing or healing over of the line of cleavage between the old decaying growths and the healthy new ones. In moist soil there is little opportunity for the corms to heal, and the rotting of the older useless portions sometimes extends into the newer tissues causing "root rot."

The use of any commercial fertilizer is satisfactory, if used sparingly and mixed well with the soil. These iris are particularly attractive in rock gardens because many are short in stature. But they look well in beds or along the border. Because of the need of dryness during the summer, it is sometimes best to place them in small beds which will not be irrigated. But they look well no matter where they are placed, and visitors are sure to discover them and comment on their distinctive beauty.

These iris successfully meet the tests imposed by iris lovers. They are larger than other species; in general, they are of exquisite form; their color is distinctive but the blending of the various shades is always harmonious; and last but not least, their substance is such that they will stand rougher treatment than the bearded kinds for they are not so fragile.

Those people, to whom "iris" means either the rather small purple or the common white sort, know but little of the beauty and rich color of the species I have described. Until recently the *Oncocyclus* and *Regelias* have been comparatively rare and could be seen only in the gardens of specialists or amateur collectors. But this time has passed and a number of commercial growers situated in favorable locations have developed sufficient stock to offer at least a few of the outstanding varieties to the public.

Cross-pollenization with the bearded iris, now being conducted by amateur as well as professional hybridizers, is bound to result in improved varieties. Of the thousands of varieties of bearded iris now offered by com-

mercial growers, few have been in existence longer than ten years. This species has reached a perfection never dreamed of by the early hybridizers. Amateur as well as professional "Burbanks" now are turning their attention to the *Pogocyclus* hybrids which many consider as the "iris of the future" and there is little doubt that the coming decade will witness as great an advance in this field as has been accomplished in the *Pogoniris* class.

For the flower lover who desires to have something a little different, a little rare, a thing of beauty, and an attention getter, the *Oncocyclus*, *Regelias* and their hybrids cannot be too strongly recommended, because investigations have shown their particular adaptability to the Pacific Coast regions.—*Western Homes and Gardens* with "Better Flowers."

USES OF BRICK IN THE GARDEN

With Helpful Examples from England

By Katherine Morrison

With such an ancient and honorable lineage as a favored building material for English homes, it is not surprising that brick is used extensively in English gardens. It serves a variety of purposes. These range from the strictly utilitarian to the purely decorative. Brick lends itself as willingly to the construction of a humble potting shed as to the erection of a colonnaded summer house or an imposing pergola. The haphazard lines of moss-grown footways are as pleasing to the eye as the more ordered patterns of formal terraces and courtyards.

Brick is an invaluable aid to the landscape designer in his effort to recall or emphasize the architecture of a house in its surrounding layout. The mellow beauty of hundreds of old mansions and manor houses is echoed in the exquisite colorings of ancient walls, steps, garden rooms and terraces.

One of the happiest instances of this unity between architecture and its setting was seen in a Suffolk village. The facade of a fifteenth century house was of half-timbered construction with weathered bricks set herring-bone fashion between the oak uprights. The diamond-paned windows with richly carved mullions overlooked an old courtyard paved with bricks. These were worn to an uneven surface by the footsteps of many generations. Just underneath the windows was a thick carpeting of musk. The picture of yellow blossoms massed against the soft reds and pinks of the old bricks has left an unforgettable memory.

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Combined With Other Materials

This matter of relating brick houses to their layouts by using bricks for garden masonry and adjuncts may easily be overdone. A word of caution is needed. All-brick paths, walls, shelters or terraces may be quite suitable if the site is an open one, enjoying a maximum of sunshine, and if the heaviness of the masonry can be offset by the feathery foliage of shrubs and a riot of color in flower beds and borders. But if the surroundings include a number of evergreens, unrelieved expanses of turf, and too many shade trees, all-brick masonry may be a bit somber and even overpowering in its effect. This does not mean that brick should be banned from such a scene. What is needed is a judicious combination of brick with other materials.

The coping of brick walls may be made of stone. Brick gate piers may be capped by stone slabs and surmounted by stone vases containing flowers of brilliant hues. A brick terrace may be adorned with a central group of statuary. A brick pathway may be intersected by a stone sun dial or bird bath.

Lead is also a pleasing accompaniment to brick. Two interesting combinations of these materials are a leaden bird bath set on a small brick terrace and lead cherubs standing on low piers to mark the entrance to a garden path.

The writer recalls two extremely effective examples of brick used in conjunction with other building materials. One was a stone sun dial set on a brick base and surrounded by a circular paved area radiating from the sun dial. This area was composed of cobblestones of a peculiarly attractive grayish blue tone. This circle of cobblestones was intersected at right angles by double rows of rosy pink bricks laid lengthwise. The whole circumference was bordered by double rows of bricks.

Attractive Color Scheme

The other example was somewhat similar in design but was carried out on a much larger scale. It was the courtyard of a country home, which had once been the barnyard of a farm. In the center was a round lily pond encircled by a brick pathway. Four other brick paths led from this lily pond at right angles to one another. They extended to the edge of the court which was paved in Welsh flagstones. These were almost blue with lovely modulations of gray and beige. With the cherry pink of the brick pathways they made a color scheme as attractive as it was unusual.

Some of the happiest alliances of brick with other kinds of masonry may be found

in pathways. Brick can be successfully used not only with many varieties of stone but with concrete. One very interesting footway was made by bordering a broad path of crazy paving by four rows of brick laid lengthwise. Small carpeting plants had been allowed to shoot up between the bricks but only grass was grown between the flagstones. This was a wise arrangement, for it left the main part of the path free for pedestrians.

Another well-planned path consisted of several courses of bricks laid lengthwise with a border of rounded stones over which rock plants had been trained.

For the path made entirely of bricks there are plenty of good methods of construction, from the most elementary type where courses are laid flat and lengthwise to the complicated "herringbone" and "basket weave" varieties. These last are best reserved for formal layouts. One intermediate type, which is appropriate for a small semi-formal garden is where single courses of stretchers laid on edge and crosswise alternate with single stretcher courses laid on edge and lengthwise.

Varied in Tone

It is always best to choose bricks with interesting gradations of tone. Nowadays these are not confined exclusively to really old bricks, but are to be found in modern bricks as well. Happily present-day methods of manufacture have reproduced the rich variations of color which make Tudor and Georgian bricks such things of beauty.

Beige, yellow, gray or ivory bricks are not of much use in garden construction. If such colors are desired, stone or concrete is a better choice. The role of bricks in gardens is primarily to supply the variegated reds, warm pinks and rich maroons which are such a delightful complement to the redundant display of nature's greens.—Christian Science Monitor.

UNLUCKY IRIS

Smuggling of iris roots into the United States from Canada, attempted by a woman traveler who had wrapped them in a towel wound around her waist under the outer clothing caused her great embarrassment when the ruse was detected and she was informed that the confiscated material legally might have been brought in, under a permit issued by plant quarantine officials of the United States Department of Agriculture.

A customs inspector observed the apparent inconsistency between the traveler's rather slender build and her corpulent appearance, and search made by a woman officer at the port detected the subterfuge.

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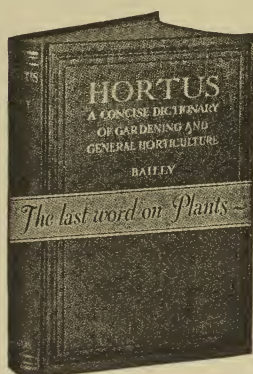
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